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Anacostia Community Museum Features Marquette “Queen Quet” Goodwine as the 43rd Anniversary Benefit Luncheon Presenter

Marquette “Queen Quet” Goodwine, founder of the Gullah/Geechee Sea Island Coalition, is the featured keynote speaker for “Word, Shout, Song: Connecting Communities,” the 43rd anniversary luncheon of the Smithsonian’s Anacostia Community Museum. The luncheon, a fundraiser for the museum, will take place Wednesday, Sept. 15, at noon at the National Press Club Ballroom.

The theme of the benefit is in recognition of “Word, Shout, Song: Lorenzo Dow Turner Connecting Communities through Language,” the museum’s groundbreaking exhibition on view through March 27, 2011. The exhibition documents the correspondences among Gullah, Afro-Brazilian and West African culture that Turner discovered in his 1930s’ research on the Gullah people of Georgia and South Carolina. The luncheon is organized by the museum’s advisory board, chaired by Gloria Herndon, and tickets are \$125. For information on tickets call (202) 633-4875, e-mail ACMinfo@si.edu or visit anacostia.si.edu.

Rep. James “Jim” Clyburn (D-S.C.) is honorary chairperson for the benefit. House Majority Whip for the 100th Congress, the congressman sponsored legislation in 2007 establishing the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor encompassing regions in North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Melvin Deal, founder and executive artistic director of the African Heritage Dancers and Drummers based in Washington, D.C., will be awarded the John R. Kinard Leadership in Community Service Award during the event, which will also feature a performance by the group. Kinard was founding director of the Anacostia Community Museum from its inception until his death in 1989. Also receiving awards are Zora Martin Felton, former education director at the museum, and Josephine Wharton, longtime museum volunteer and community advocate.

The luncheon event also includes an auction offering works by renowned artists Sam Gilliam, Faith Ringgold, Gullah folk-artist Jonathan Green and others. Maureen Bunyan, weeknight anchor for WJLA-TV7, is the mistress of ceremonies.

An author, lecturer and advocate for Gullah/Geechee heritage, Goodwine has been honored by the South Carolina Senate for her work on behalf of her people. She presented on behalf of the Gullah/Geechee in 1999 before the United Nations' 55th Session in Geneva. A native of St. Helena Island in South Carolina, Goodwine is a commissioner of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and holds degrees from Fordham and Columbia universities. Also making remarks is Faith Mitchell, author of *Hoodoo Medicine: Gullah Remedies*, on Turner's influence on her research about the use of natural medicines in the Sea Islands.

Major support for the museum's 43rd anniversary luncheon has been provided by CareFirst, BlueCross BlueShield, Diane Scott-Jones and Dr. Philip H. Omohundro. Additional support has been provided by Busboys & Poets and Training, Historical Research & Economic Development.

The Anacostia Community Museum opened in southeast Washington in 1967 as the nation's first federally funded neighborhood museum. Adopting its current name in 2006, the museum has expanded its focus from an African American emphasis to documenting, interpreting and collecting objects related to the impact of historical and contemporary social issues on communities. For more information on the museum, the public may call (202) 633-4820 or (202) 633-5285 (TTY); for tours, call (202) 633-4844. Website: anacostia.si.edu.

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